

The first new school building to be built in Cambridge in 40 years, Trumpington Community College is a secondary school with a footprint of 8000 sqm and can cater for 750 pupils. The school is designed around the Danish school model with compact planning, allowing a large proportion of unstructured teaching with a high level of connectivity.



## Brief

Trumpington Community College wanted to develop a building which will showcase the college's specialism of science and provide flexible classrooms around a central atrium.

The design of Trumpington follows a high sustainability agenda and an aim to create a flexible learning environment to adapt to changes in education over the next 50 years. The school appointed Avanti Architects, contractors Morgan Sindall and Aecom to design and construct the building.

As part of the development Innova Design Group were appointed to deliver state-of-the-art laboratories.

“  
*It is lovely to see the children working in a building which is beautifully designed and allows for different types of learning.*  
”

HRH Duke of Gloucester

Carcase		Manufactured from 18mm MF MDF	Seating		Cantilever stools
Lab Worktops		Trespa Toplab	Handles		Zinc alloy inset handles
Edging		ABS Colour matched edging	Hinge		240 ° pivot safety hinges

“ Against a background of standardisation and austerity, this new school shows how high-quality, bespoke design can still be delivered. ”

*Amir Ramezani, Director of Avanti Architects,*



### Solution

As flexible layouts were a key requirement for Trumpington, Innova focused on clever space planning and design in the Biology, Chemistry and Physics labs, installing a combination of fixed benching and Flexi-Pods, housing the key services with flexible loose tables, to ensure the space can be re-configured as required for individual or group work.

This multi-functional layout accommodates a range of teaching and learning styles central to the modern syllabus and allows students to work on practical and theory sessions alone, in pairs or in groups.

Two further general science classrooms were installed with a teacher demo desk, complete with all services, and loose tables. This arrangement enables students to focus on theory lessons whilst allowing teachers to carry out demonstrations to support learning.

Perimeter storage to hold equipment was integrated seamlessly into each laboratory, allowing surfaces to be kept clean and clutter free. With working areas clear of books and equipment, student distractions are minimised.

Two pep rooms were installed with multiple storage units and shelving, whilst movable gratnell units beneath perimeter benching created a flexible space to mix chemicals and prepare practical lessons.

Hardwearing, durable Trespa work-surfaces were used throughout to ensure the labs will serve students and teachers well into the future.